172, LAMBETH ROAD, S.E.
London

August 21st 1877

My dear Wm. Garrison.

248 I am extremely obliged to you for the two letters received this morning, and also to you son for the very interesting communication which he addressed to me from Scotland. I should have replied to the latter some time ago, but my Londo. cares so full of work that I had no opportunity of doing so before you had left the address which he gave.

What you have written

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concerning the suggestion made by Mr. Wilson is exactly what I wanted... I should be glad if you as you suggest, would communicate your views on the subject to President Hayes. As you are aware, Mr. Pierrepont has at our request forwarded a copy of Mr. Wilson's letter to the State Department at Washington. We have no Indian wars in Canada – not even in Rupert's Land; and it is impossible therefore to avoid the conclusion that the unfortunate outbreaks which are so constantly taking place in your Western territories are in the

main the fruit of a mistaken policy. I think that the only chance of saving even a remnant of the wild Indians lies in the adoption of some such plan as Mr. Wilson advocates. Mr. Stanley Humphrey informs me that on some reserves the Indians do raise large quantities of cattle. Let me refer you to your leisure to page 422 of the "Colonist Intelligencer" (sent herewith)
for one or two testimonies on this subject. What we want is to see the United States government make a large and systematic

effort to conciliate the Indians
and to afford them employment
suitable to their habits and to
the circumstances of their position.

I wish in the second place
to call your attention to the fact
that, although during the Franco-
German war, a large amount of
pecuniary help came from the United
States for the relief of the sick
and wounded, as well as for the
mitigation of the distress consequent
upon the war, very little has yet
been done by the American people on
behalf of our suffering brethren

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in the East.. The Florence Nightingale of the present movement in Miss Irby, a niece of Lord Boston and cousin of George Shaw Lefevre M.P., with whom I think you are acquainted.. Miss Irby's labours on the Bosnian frontier have awakened a deep sympathy in this country, and I am glad to find that something is likely to be done to assist her on the other side of the Atlantic.. I enclose you a copy of her "Urgent appeal to American lovers of liberty" I have penciled her Note. I would ask you to communicate on your

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return with D^r. L. E. Lewall of
Boston. I breakfasted lately
with Cyrus Field and Mr. John
E. Bigelow; and I think that
they would both be willing to
co-operate in a larger movement than
has yet been attempted in the
United States. A few shiploads of
Indian corn would save hundreds if
not thousands of precious lives. Mr.
Edmund Sturgis (the Chairman of
your Anti Slavery Breakfast) came
to see me on this subject yesterday
morning. He very properly pointed
out that, having regard to the

depressed condition of commercial affairs in your country, the case is peculiarly one for the wealthier classes: those whose circumstances are not injuriously affected by the vicissitudes of trade.. No cause must exist even appealed to the sympathies of mankind.-

We had a letter recently from our daughter (May who tells us that there is no change in the condition of either her grandpapa or her grandmama.. I am extremely glad that you have had an

opportunity of taking Mr. T. by the hand for the last time in this world. I understand that after you left he suffered much temporary depression of mind, but I have no doubt that he now feels cheered by the reflection that after all he has enjoyed a privilege which he could hardly have anticipated a few months ago.

I have to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your son's letter with reference to Mr. Thompson's speeches. I should be

grateful to you for any good
reports of such speeches, whether
delivered in England or America,
which you may possess: promising
as I would to return those which
were not used in the volume. I
purpose to write an Introduction
embracing those facts in W. Thompson's
public career which are likely to
prove interesting to the new as well
as the old generation. Could you not
undertake to write a Chapter on
his connection with you and the
anti-slavery cause in the United

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States? I think that this would add largely to the interest of the volume. Before making arrangements with a Publisher I should like to get up a good subscription list. If the volume is of good size and handsomely got up, I do not think we need hesitate to charge fifteen shillings for it. I should propose to name as publishers some London house which would be able through its New York or Philadelphia agents to supply the American subscribers:

That is to say if you are able to get together such a body of supporters among the old friends of the slave.

I am happy to say that my wife is now pretty well. Strong I fear she never will be, but after the dreadful shock her system sustained by the attack of congestion of the lungs, about which I spoke to you, I have reason to feel grateful that she is not more of an invalid. The health of our daughter Constance is now

causing us alarm, she having had some of the premonitory symptoms of consumption.. She is now with some friends of ours recreating on the Rhine, and we are anxiously hoping that the change into pure air may be beneficial..

I hope I have not bored you with too long a letter.. There is much more I should have liked to say to you, but which I must leave unsaid.. I rejoice that you have been able to revisit old England, and that your health

has benefited by the change of air and scene. I hope that before another ten years you will be amongst us again. You are young in spirit, and at seventy many English Statesmen feel that they are in their prime and that their career is yet before them.

With kindest regards to

Yours sincerely,

W. L. Garrison Esq. Very gratefully Yrs.

F. W. Chesson

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